

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is submitted in response to the Final Office Action dated July 19, 2005. Reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Claims 17-19, 21, and 23-29 remain in this application. Claims 1-16, 20, and 22 were previously canceled.

Claim Rejection Under 35 USC 103

In the Office Action, claims 17, 18, 25, and 26 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Sanada et al. (E.P. 0 881 560 A2) in view of Suzuki (U.S. 5,796,736). Additionally, claims 19, 21, 23, 24, and 27-29 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Sanada. The counsel for assignee respectfully traverses.

In order to establish *prima facie* obviousness three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the reference or to combine the reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Third, the prior art references (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all of the claimed limitations. The teachings or suggestions to make the claimed invention and the reasonable expectation of success must be found in the prior art and not based on Applicant's disclosure. See *In re Vaeck* 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991) and MPEP 2143. The counsel for assignee respectfully submits that the Examiner has not satisfied all three criteria outlined in MPEP 2143.

First, counsel does not believe that there is any suggestion or motivation either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Suzuki with Sanada as suggested by the Examiner. In the office action the Examiner acknowledged that regarding claims 17 and 25, Sanada "does not explicitly state the replacement of identification information for when the connection port is replaced" but that "Suzuki discloses a network auto-discovery method wherein the network nodes are automatically recognized and connection information is automatically accessed." The Examiner then argued

that one of ordinary skill "would have found it obvious to combine the control table provided by Sanada et al. with the automatic discovery method of network nodes taught by Suzuki in order to keep track of all nodes in the network." Counsel for assignee vigorously traverses. Assuming arguendo that there is a desire to keep track of all nodes in the network there is still no reason why any "security information in which access disabled is set are registered in the control table" because the nodes could be tracked with any other means or with its own table and not the control table. Counsel respectfully submits that the only motivation for updating the control table is found in the invention and disclosure and not in the cited references.

The Examiner similarly argued that regarding claims 18 and 26, "Sanada et al. disclose the use of a control table to store identification information but are silent on the replacement of identification information for when the connection port is replaced" but that "Suzuki discloses a network auto-discovery method wherein the network nodes are automatically recognized and connection information is automatically accessed." The Examiner then argued that one of ordinary skill "would have found it obvious to combine the control table provided by Sanada et al. with the automatic discovery method of network nodes taught by Suzuki in order to keep track of all nodes in the network." Since these rejections are identical to the rejections used to reject claims 17 and 25, counsel for assignee traverses these rejections for the same reasons used to traverse the rejection of claims 18 and 26.

Second, counsel does not believe that the prior art references (or references when combined) teach or suggest all of the claimed limitations. Specifically, neither Sanada or Suzuki teach "replacement of the fiber channel port is detected by the storage controller on the basis of information notified from the fabric, and the port name of the fiber channel port in the control table is replaced with a port name of a new fiber channel port replacing the fiber channel port before the replacement, and in case that the port name of the fiber channel port before replacement was access enabled, a port name of the fiber channel after replacement is set to be access enabled in the control table." The Examiner has already acknowledged that Sanada is "silent on the replacement of identification information for when the connection port is replaced." Furthermore, Suzuki does not disclose updating a control table, when connection status of the fiber channel port was changed in the upper node device or that a control table

contains a node name of the upper node device, a port name of the fiber channel port, and a fiber channel port access enabled/disabled state. Suzuki only relates to automatically recognizing relationships of physical connections between each of ATM switches in an ATM network and each of ATM terminals. Counsel believes that the prior art references (or references when combined) do not teach or suggest all of the claimed limitations.

Therefore, claims 17, 18, 25, and 26 are not believed obvious under *In re Vaeck* and MPEP 2143 because there is no motivation for updating the control table as suggested in the Office Action. Additionally claims 17, 18, 25, and 26 are not believed obvious because assuming *arguendo* that there was motivation for updating the control table, all of the claimed limitations of claim 17, 18, 25, and 26 are still not disclosed. Claims 19, 21, 23, 24, and 27-29 are also not believed obvious under *In re Vaeck* and MPEP 2143 because they depend from independent claims 17 and 25.

Nevertheless, in an effort to expedite prosecution and to *further* distinguish the claimed invention from *Sanada* and *Suzuki*, independent claims 17 and 25 have been amended. Specifically claims 17 and 25 have been amended to include "wherein said security information is added to the port name information so as to constitute the fiber channel port configuration information of the upper node device." Support for this amendment to the claims can be found in page 8 lines 8-12 of the originally filed specification or in paragraph [0028] of the published application. Since claims 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, and 26-29 depend from independent claims 17 and 25, these claims are also amended because of their dependency. In light of this amendment and the above arguments, counsel believes that the pending claims are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 09/964,069

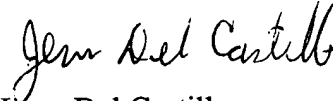
PATENT

Amdt. mailed October 14, 2005

Reply to Final Office Action of July 19, 2005

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



Jésus Del Castillo

Reg. No. 51,604

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor

San Francisco, California 94111-3834

Tel: 650-326-2400

Fax: 415-576-0300

JDC:gjs

60556181 v1